

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



CLEARING THE MINES 2025

KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2027

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 50km²

Heavy
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	0.17	0.36
Technical Survey	3.25	5.5
Non-Technical Survey	12.03	25.64

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	574	1,363 (including 577 during spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Armed Forces of BiH
- Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS)
- Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP)
- Point
- Detector
- DCM Media
- In Demining
- N&N Ivsa
- UEM
- Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC)
- Stop Mines
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) still lacks a reliable estimate of anti-personnel (AP) mined area as the overall estimate reported by the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMAL) is significantly inflated. Although BHMAL migrated to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core in 2024, at the time of writing, the system was not yet being used operationally. The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 includes land release targets of 75km² per year for 2025 and 2026, which are entirely unrealistic given falling land release output and record-low clearance of just 0.17km² in 2024. Operators are still not permitted to conduct non-technical survey (NTS) despite revisions made to national mine action standards (NMA) and without which BiH will be unable to achieve the amount of cancellation needed and meet its targets. Donor confidence is waning as fulfilment of its clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) remains far out of reach.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- BHMAL should present AP mined area data in line with international best practice, clearly disaggregating suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) from confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).
- BHMAL should prioritise cancellation of SHAs based on desk research and deployment of NTS teams to conduct

survey in order to generate a more accurate estimate of AP mined area. In line with international best practice, operators should be authorised to conduct NTS which will require a change in legislation and should be included in the forthcoming Demining Law.

- BHMAL should ensure IMSMA Core is finally operating and grant operators access to the database.
- BHMAL should delegate greater operational decision-making authority to operators, recognising their expertise and ability to make decisions about operational safety and efficiency.
- BHMAL should streamline decision-making to reduce delays in approving changes and procedures, addressing the centralisation of authority and political obstacles that hinder progress.
- BHMAL should accelerate certification of cleared areas and removal from the national database.
- BHMAL should strengthen communication and coordination with operators and other stakeholders, including by reinstating the Country Coalition, and hold technical working group (TWGs) meetings with operators that address the challenges to the implementation of Article 5.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	4	5	BiH estimated that nearly 823km ² of AP mined area remained in its territory at the end of 2024. Of this, 165km ² is categorised as CHAs, which is a large increase from the 18km ² reported in 2023. The basis for this new estimate is unclear.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	The process to adopt the amended demining law was restarted in 2022. As at October 2025, the Working Group had agreed on the draft Demining Law, but the adoption process was still pending. A Board of Donors meeting and a Technical Working Group meeting were held in 2025, but no Country Coalition meetings have been held since 2020. Coordination mechanisms remain insufficiently participatory and are ineffective.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 aligns with the 2003 Law on Gender Equality. But within BHMAL and clearance operators, women make up only a small proportion of staff.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	4	4	BiH does not have an NMAS on environmental management, though laws and BHMAL procedures include some measures to minimise contamination, protect ecosystems, and restore land to an appropriate state. Environmental considerations feature in a limited way in the revised mine action strategy. Environmental assessments are conducted for certain projects such as the planned demining of the River Sava.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	6	BHMAL has migrated from its own information management system to the new web-based IMSMA Core, but at the time of writing had still to use the system. BiH submitted its Article 7 report covering 2024, disaggregating mined area into SHAs and CHAs.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	6	The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 was adopted in April 2025. It includes new targets on land release for 2025 and 2026. A demining plan for 2025 had been finalised and adopted. Final task completion certificates have been delayed, and task dossiers lack detailed NTS information.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	6	A number of NMAS, including on land release, NTS, technical survey, and clearance, were revised in 2024 and have been implemented since January 2025. Only BHMAL can conduct NTS, a situation that operators have been seeking to change, but this continues to be met by resistance from BHMAL and any change would require amendments to legislation under the authority of higher levels of government and the NMAA.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	5	Land release output decreased by 51% between 2023 and 2024 and fell far short of BiH's land release target for the year. BiH will not meet its current Article 5 deadline and will submit its fourth extension request in 2026. In order to achieve completion within the medium term, BiH will need to increase its annual land release output significantly, with a particular focus on cancellation through NTS as well as greatly increased clearance.
Average Score	4.6	5.1	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The Demining Commission (representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Security, and Defence) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs))
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Armed Forces of BiH
- BHMAC
- Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS)
- Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP)
- NGOs:
 - DEMIRA
 - Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC)
 - Pro Vita
 - Stop Mines

- Commercial demining companies:
 - Detektor
 - Heksogen
 - In Demining
 - N&N Ivsa
 - Udruga "Pazi mine"
 - UEM (UEM is also an NGO)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

BHMAC reported that, as at the end of 2024, nearly 823km² of suspected mined area remained (see Table 1).¹ Of this, nearly 165km² is categorised as CHA while more than 658km² is in SHA.² This is an overall decrease from the 838km² of mined area reported by BiH a year earlier, although it includes greatly increased CHA, which in 2023 covered only some 18km².³ In its latest Article 7 report covering 2024 (and the

Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027), BiH refers to the overall total of suspected mined area and number of minefield records as an indication of AP mined area. However, this is misleading as it is known that the overall total is hugely inflated and actual contamination covers between 2% and 10% of the estimate.⁴

Table 1: Mined area (at end 2024)⁵

Canton	Suspected area by priority category (km ²)			Total Area (km ²)
	1 st category	2 nd category	3 rd category	
Unsko-Sanski	34.05	31.82	19.15	85.02
Posavski	2.98	9.10	1.81	13.89
Tuzlanski	12.58	15.35	38.82	66.76
Zeničko-Dobojski	25.98	11.48	74.71	112.17
Bosansko-Podrinjski	2.39	7.86	32.22	42.48
Srednjobosanski	20.11	36.27	42.99	99.38
Hercegovačko Neretvanski	11.06	22.22	93.31	126.59
Zapadnohercegovački	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.20
Kanton Sarajevo	14.66	9.91	23.67	48.25
Kanton 10	7.28	10.62	42.69	60.59
Republika Srpska	0.77	7.28	2.31	10.35
Brčko district	51.97	51.94	53.28	157.19
Totals	183.83	213.85	425.16	822.87

1 Email from Mirjana Marić, Senior Officer for Analysis and Reporting, BHMAC, 5 June 2025.
2 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Annex 2.
3 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 29 April 2024; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.
4 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 10; and Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
5 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 5 June 2025.

In 2017, BHMAL, clearance operators, and the European Union (EU) formalised plans for a country assessment project to establish a more accurate baseline of mine contamination and improve clearance efficiency.⁶ The project, conducted from 2018 to 2020, involved a nationwide NTS by BHMAL, the Armed Forces of BiH, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The project processed data for 143 municipalities, confirming mined areas in 118 of them. During the project, 103km² of land was released, reducing total mined area from 1,069km² to 966m². The NTS corrected 1,151 mined area locations, added 300 new minefield records, and removed 6,023 records from the database.⁷

The remaining mined area was divided into 478 Mine Suspected Areas (MSAs), which average 1.94km² in size.⁸ MSA is a BiH-specific term, not consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and defined locally as "an area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit".⁹ In addition, some mine contamination outside the MSAs is assigned to operators for release. BHMAL has not specified

how much of the contaminated area is within MSAs and how much is outside. It had been expected that the assessment project would result in a significant amount of cancellation, but in fact this amounted to less than 10% of the total mined area at the time.¹⁰ Significant further cancellation is therefore expected during release of the MSAs.

BiH is heavily contaminated with mines, primarily as a result of the 1992–95 conflict related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. All warring factions in BiH laid mines, primarily between confrontation lines.¹¹ More than twenty-five years after the end of the conflict, BiH is still heavily contaminated with mines. Mined areas generally contain relatively small numbers of mines, which are typically either in patterns or are "randomly laid". In its Article 7 report for 2020, BiH stated it had collected 70% of all minefield records.¹² The quality of approximately 30% of minefield records was not sufficiently accurate to enable the precise location and shape of the mined area in question to be identified.¹³ BiH is also reported to be affected by AP mines of an improvised nature in Čapljinka and Goraždanka, but claims their detection is possible through standard methods.¹⁴

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

BiH is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW). The last cluster munition remnants (CMR) were destroyed at the end of August 2023, and BHMAL declared completion of its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 clearance obligations at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the CCM in Geneva in September 2023.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Demining Commission, under the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, supervises the State-wide BHMAL and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.¹⁵ The Demining Commission is composed of representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Defence, and Security) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs). Whereas the Minister for Civil Affairs remains ultimately responsible for mine action, the Demining Commission is the body tasked with setting mine action policy on periodic re-accreditation of field operators, based on a recommendation from BHMAL. It also proposes appointment of BHMAL senior staff for approval by the Council of Ministers.¹⁶

BHMAL is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's survey and clearance plans.¹⁷ It operates from its headquarters in Sarajevo, two main operations

offices in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and eight regional offices (in Banja Luka, Bihac, Brčko, Mostar, Pale, Sarajevo, Travnik, and Tuzla).¹⁸

Since 2008, efforts have been made to adopt new mine action legislation in BiH with a view to creating a stable platform for mine action funding by the government and local authorities. The process was restarted in 2022 with adoption planned in June 2025.¹⁹ As at October 2025, the Working Group had agreed on the draft Demining Law, but the adoption process was still pending.²⁰ The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) believes the amended demining law should be revised further and re-submitted for adoption, with the topics of "all reasonable effort" and liability discussed in parallel to the revision.²¹ Clearer legislation on liabilities related to mine action activities would be beneficial to all stakeholders in BiH.

6 Interviews with Darvin Lisica, then Programme Manager and Regional Director, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; and Tarik Serak BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.

7 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 26 March 2020.

8 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 10–11; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.

9 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 16.

10 Based on BiH's draft Mine Action Report for 2020, p. 11.

11 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

12 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.

13 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

14 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations", APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

15 BHMAL Organisational chart, accessed 6 May 2022 at: <http://bit.ly/2Ycj4xl>.

16 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 22.

17 Bosnia and Herzegovina Official Gazette, Sarajevo, 17 March 2002.

18 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 8.

19 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 12 April 2024; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A.

20 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 8 October 2025.

21 Email from the GICHD, 14 May 2021.

Since 2010, NPA has supported capacity building of the Armed Forces of BiH's demining battalion.²² National capacity development remains a strategic priority for NPA, which, in collaboration with national stakeholders, developed a Capacity Development Plan for 2022–25, which aimed to strengthen the battalion's role in implementing BiH's mine action strategy. Progress under the plan depends, in part, on the availability of funding. In 2024, NPA provided training in information management and land release to BHMAL staff, although this had limited impact on BHMAL's processes or operations.²³ ITF Enhancing Human Security supported BHMAL by providing three vehicles to aid its operational capacity.²⁴ Mines Advisory Group (MAG) continued to support national capacity development through the implementation of a digital risk education project.²⁵

After a 10-year hiatus, Board of Donors meetings resumed in September 2015.²⁶ BiH's Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 specifies that at least one such meeting should be organised every year with one held in June 2025.²⁷

It had been hoped that the "Country Coalition" established between BiH and Germany would provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders, help demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination of Article 5 (and CCM Article 4 implementation, now completed), identify and overcome challenges, and monitor progress

against the 2018–25 strategy. The first Country Coalition meeting, convened jointly by BiH and Germany, was in 2020, attended by representatives from a wide range of mine action stakeholders, including NGO clearance operators and donors.²⁸ Regrettably, as at June 2025, no further Country Coalition meetings had been convened.²⁹

Since the appointment of the new BHMAL director in June 2024, MAG and NPA have noted increased openness within BHMAL to reform and reinvigorate TWGs to foster dialogue between operators, BHMAL, and its regional offices. The intention is for these TWGs to provide a platform to share lessons learned, operational challenges, and successes across BiH, with the aim of their being convened every two or three months.³⁰ In June 2025, BHMAL convened a TWG meeting, but it focused solely on administrative issues related to a recent ITF tender without any discussion of technical matters.³¹ MAG and NPA have continued to advocate for regular TWG meetings and have offered their support to organise them.³² BHMAL has suggested TWGs will continue, but whether this happens remains to be seen.

Overall, operators report that BHMAL should establish more frequent, focused, and participatory coordination mechanisms that go beyond a tick-box exercise, actively seeking operator input to inform the development and updating of standards and processes.³³

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

National funding supports BHMAL and survey and clearance by the BiH Armed Forces, financed by the State budget through the Council of Ministers. The Federation of BiH funds the Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), while the Republika Srpska government finances the Civil Protection Administration for Republika Srpska (CPA RS).³⁴ In 2020, 55% of mine action funding came from international donors, with 45% from national sources, but total funding fell short of the Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 targets.³⁵ In 2024, BHMAL received more than BAM 7.8 million (approximately US\$4.4 million) from BiH, an increase on the support provided the year before. Additionally, domestic institutions allocated over BAM 10.8 million for demining (BAM 2.8 million for the Armed Forces, BAM 4.3 million for the FACP, and BAM 3.7 million for the CPA RS).³⁶ BiH also secured €10 million from the EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in 2024 for a three-year

clearance programme in more than 20 municipalities, aiming to clear over 70km² of land.

Clearance along the Sava river's right bank is planned in partnership with the Ministry of Transport and Communication and The World Bank, although the tender had yet to be announced.³⁷ In 2024, funding for AP mine survey and clearance in BiH came from Czechia, the European Union, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United States.³⁸

In 2024, NPA was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Foreign Office (GFFO) and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). The GFFO withdrew funding to mine action in BiH at the end of December 2024 although it was later extended to the end of March 2025. An NMFA contract with NPA for mine action in BiH finishes at the end of 2025. Future Norwegian support may be channelled

22 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.

23 Email from Valerie Warmington, Country Director, NPA, 25 June 2025.

24 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

25 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

26 Interview with Tarik Serak, BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and emails from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 19 June 2017; and Suad Baljak, Mine Action Officer, UNDP, 15 June 2017; and UNDP BiH, "Mine Action Board of Donors Meeting", 31 March 2016, at: <http://bit.ly/300f4lp>.

27 BiH, Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–27, p. 24; and email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 8 October 2025.

28 BHMAL website, "Embassy of the Republic of Germany in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, organized online Country Coalition conference", 14 October 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2Nwxath>; and Statement of Germany, Second CCM Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.

29 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

30 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 25 April 2024; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 9 May 2024.

31 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

32 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

33 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

34 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 22 March 2022; and Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.

35 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

36 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

37 Statement of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024; and email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 30 September 2025.

38 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

through global funds allocated by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to NPA in Oslo. Funding from the SDC has fallen sharply since 2023, as resources were redirected to Ukraine. Other donors have also indicated to NPA that they have no funding available or no further interest in supporting mine action in BiH.³⁹

In 2024, MAG was funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the US Department of State's Bureau of

Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA), the GFFO, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Humanitarian Demining and Weapons Contamination Management Programme (MACM). The Dutch support, part of a multi-year, multi-country grant, ended in May 2024. In 2025, MAG was funded by PM/WRA, with GFFO funding ending in March. The PM/WRA grant was due to conclude at the end of 2025, and its extension into 2026 remained uncertain at the time of writing.⁴⁰

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 specifies that: "Under BHMALC leadership, the relevant actors will include the issues of gender and diversity in all phases of planning, realisation and monitoring of all mine activities".⁴¹ The revised mine action strategy reflects the 2003 Law on Gender Equality in BiH, which foresees equal treatment and equality of opportunity and prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination on the ground of gender. The Law on Gender Equality determines that equal representation of men and

women exists when the percentage of either gender in bodies at all levels in BiH (State, entity, cantonal, and municipality level) is at least 40%. BiH's national mine action strategy also considered the 2007 Gender Equality Action Plan.⁴²

BHMALC reported having a gender and diversity policy in place and claimed that BHMALC upholds the Law on Gender Equality and routinely includes it in the development of strategies, standards and work plans.⁴³

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2024⁴⁴

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
BHMALC	148	34 (23%)	18	4 (22%)	122	28 (23%)
Demining Battalion	501	23 (5%)	109	1 (1%)	392	22 (6%)
FACP	191	41 (21%)	12	5 (42%)	142	14 (10%)
NPA*	109	13 (12%)	16	3 (19%)	90	6 (7%)
MAG	94	12 (13%)	9	4 (44%)	84	7 (8%)
Totals	1,043	123 (12%)	164	17 (10%)	830	77 (9%)

*Data from December 2024.

MAG and NPA both have a policy on gender for their work.⁴⁵ In 2024, MAG developed a regional Gender and Inclusion Action Plan to increase internal female participation and gender-sensitive programming in MAG's Eastern Europe programmes. Two of MAG BiH's staff members participated in a Gender & Conflict Sensitivity Training organised in collaboration with International Alert. MAG also launched a recruitment campaign focused on attracting women to deminer positions. The response was, though, very limited, and MAG then had to suspend the recruitment campaign due to budget cuts that lead to a reduction in the number of deminer positions available.⁴⁶

39 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June, 11 and 30 September 2025.

40 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 2 September 2025.

41 Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p. 17.

42 Ibid.

43 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMALC, 24 April 2019; and Mirjana Marić, BHMALC, 5 June 2025.

44 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; Čazim Mahmić, Head of the Demining and EOD Department, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 16 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

45 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

46 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

BiH does not have an NMAS on environmental management. The Law on Protection and Rescue of People and Material Goods from Natural and Other Disasters⁴⁷ recognises environmental protection as integral to protection from unexploded ordnance and land restoration. BHMAC procedures, followed by the FACP, include guidelines for safe handling of explosives to prevent contamination, controlled detonations to limit harmful emissions, environmental impact assessments to identify protected areas and ecosystems, and post-demining land restoration.⁴⁸ Threshing machines are banned in agricultural areas due to soil disturbance and compaction, and machines are not used on mountain

pastures to protect against removal of layers of grasses.⁴⁹ Environmental considerations are included in the revised mine action strategy but only in reference to the 2022 study on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mine action in Bosnia which identified the direct contribution of land release to 12 SDGs and 35 of their associated targets, including relating to flood prevention.⁵⁰ Environmental assessments are sometimes conducted to support the planning and delivery of survey and clearance tasks, with an environmental study for the project “The demining of the River Sava right bank” currently in preparation and to be published upon completion.⁵¹

Table 3: Environmental policies and action⁵²

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
Demining Battalion	No	No	No
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
MAG	Organisational, not country programme-specific.	No	No
MAG	No – global Climate and Environment Strategy under development	No	Yes

In 2024, NPA BiH trialled and adopted the Green Field Tool, which confirmed it was already taking all reasonable measures to minimise environmental impact, and noted limited community interest in environmental and climate issues. NPA also introduced recycling for paper, glass, metal, and plastic at its main base.⁵³ MAG BiH began drafting an

Environmental Action Plan, distributed reusable tote bags and water bottles, promoted energy and water conservation, and continued reusing plastic marking tape where possible. In 2025, MAG will conduct a baseline environmental assessment to measure and reduce the climate and environmental impact of its operations.⁵⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

BHMAC continues to use its Paradox-based information management system, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS),⁵⁵ with migration to IMSMA Core ongoing since 2019. Phase one was completed in 2020.⁵⁶ A follow-up project to migrate the remaining data and workflows supported by the GFFO and conducted in partnership with the GICHD and NPA began in February 2023 and concluded in August 2024.⁵⁷

A monitoring team of NPA and the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) oversaw progress. The GICHD deployed an information management staff member to conduct regular missions, visiting for two weeks each month to support implementation.⁵⁸ NPA reported that despite IMSMA Core being fully installed, reliable data migrated, regional staff trained, and tablets provided for field-level reporting, BHMAC has yet to operate the system. NPA continues to follow up and offer support, but neither

47 Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH, No. 59/03.
48 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.
49 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.
50 GICHD and UNDP, “The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, 2 June 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3X9qv8z>.
51 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 5 June 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.
52 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; Čazim Mahmić, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.
53 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.
54 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.
55 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.
56 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and email from the GICHD, 27 April 2022.
57 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023; Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May 2023; Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 29 June 2023; and Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 12 April and 16 September 2024.
58 Email from Boris Ohanyan, GICHD, 2 July 2024.

NPA, GICHD, nor the BHMAL Director has identified any credible barriers to its use. However, the Director maintains his commitment to adopting IMSMA Core and advancing its implementation.⁵⁹ MAG noted that in August 2024, BHMAL held a presentation on IMSMA Core without inviting MAG, which risks further slowing the system's effective roll-out as all implementers will need to report through it and adapt their internal processes.⁶⁰

At present, while clearance operators do have access to data on specific tasks being undertaken, they do not have access to BHMAL's information management database.⁶¹ Operators rely solely on materials provided in task dossiers prepared by BHMAL from their old system (BHMAIS).⁶² According to BHMAL, the full use of IMSMA Core depends on harmonising operational procedures and completing system integration and training. They emphasise that the transition is ongoing and contingent on these foundational steps being finalised.⁶³

Information management is the first strategic goal in BiH's revised mine action strategy. Targets are to establish a staffed and trained Information Management Unit by the end of 2026; revise and implement relevant NMAS and standard operating procedures (SOPs) as necessary in coordination with partners; define organisational structures to integrate information management across BHMAL by the end of 2026; and maintain IMSMA Core in line with future revisions to NMAS and SOPs.⁶⁴

BiH has submitted its APMBC Article 7 transparency report covering 2024 and disaggregated remaining mine contamination into SHAs and CHAs. However, the fact that some AP mined area is classified as being within the MSAs and some remains outside MSAs in "classic tasks" creates a lack of clarity in land release data. BiH explained that individual tasks are generally integrated into the MSAs but may be prepared separately when funded by specific donors or local communities.⁶⁵ There are also issues with data accuracy, with errors made in the calculations in the contamination table.

PLANNING AND TASKING

BiH's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 sought to release all mine contamination. Planned revisions in 2020 and 2023 were delayed, with the first revision completed in 2024, led by BHMAL but with the collaboration of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Demining Commission.⁶⁶ National and international mine action operators as well as the representatives from EUFOR, the Red Cross, and civil society participated in the revision of the strategy.⁶⁷ The revised strategy was adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 2025.⁶⁸

The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 includes a comprehensive action plan for all five strategic goals, detailing operational objectives, indicators and targets for 2025 and 2026. Strategic goal three is about survey and clearance with the target that 67km² will be cancelled through NTS annually, which will be undertaken in 32 MSAs. In the same goal, however, another target plans that 75km² will be released each year, of which 60km² will be cancelled through NTS, 13.5km² reduced through TS, and 1.5km² cleared.⁶⁹

According to BiH's 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, from 2020 to 2027 BiH plans to release a total of 967km²: 816.6km² through cancellation; 141.7km² through reduction; and 7.8km² through clearance (see Table 4).⁷⁰ While BiH did disaggregate the amount cancelled, reduced, and cleared each year in its operational plan, the totals in several columns did not correctly sum to the annual total.⁷¹

BiH has fallen well behind its land release targets each year since 2020. BiH was asked by the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to submit an updated work plan by 30 April 2023 but had not done so at the time of writing.⁷² In January 2025, BHMAL developed the Demining Plan for 2025 under Article 16 of the Demining Law which has been approved by the Council of Ministers.⁷³ The Plan outlines mined areas to be addressed; available and estimated personnel; required equipment and materials; funding needs; demining priorities; and an operational demining plan. It is aligned with the Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025. As at April 2025, the Work Plan for 2025–26 had been finalised and was due to be submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation once adopted by the Council of Ministers.⁷⁴

⁵⁹ Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

⁶⁰ Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

⁶¹ Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025 and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

⁶² Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

⁶³ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

⁶⁴ Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p.20–22.

⁶⁵ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 8 October 2025.

⁶⁶ BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 34; and Statement of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

⁶⁷ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

⁶⁸ Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

⁶⁹ Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, pp. 27 and 29.

⁷⁰ Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

⁷³ "Official Gazette BiH", No. 5/02; and email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 8 October 2025.

⁷⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

Table 4: Planned land release in 2023–27 (km²)⁷⁵

Year	Land release target in extension request	Land release target in mine action strategy	Release achieved	Gap in implementation
2020	71.8		16.2	55.6
2021	91.3		34.0	57.0
2022	110.3		52.8	57.5
2023	126.4		31.5	94.9
2024	145.5		15.5	130.0
Subtotals	545.3		150.0	395.0
2025	155.7	75		
2026	131.4	75		
2027	134.6			
Totals	967.0	150	150.0	395.0

In its 2020 extension request and its Article 7 report covering 2024, BiH described its prioritisation system for releasing MSAs, which is based on the humanitarian, socio-economic, and safety needs of the municipality and local communities; the level of threat (high, medium, or low); and on operational factors such as accessibility and cost-efficiency.⁷⁶ Of the 478 MSAs created, 189 were considered high impact, 274 medium impact, and 15 low impact.⁷⁷ In its revised mine action strategy, AP mined area is divided into three levels of priority but this just includes contamination as SHAs and makes no mention of the MSAs.⁷⁸

In 2024, BHMAG prepared 10 MSAs and 14 tasks outside MSAs for clearance and technical survey (TS).⁷⁹ Operators are assigned whole MSAs by BHMAG, inside which BHMAG designates specific areas (CHA or SHA polygons) for either systematic TS, based on “general, non-location-specific” evidence of contamination, or targeted TS, based on “location-specific” evidence of contamination, as well as clearance (if contamination is confirmed). Formally, only BHMAG can conduct NTS and cancel areas no longer suspected to contain mines.⁸⁰

MAG has faced delays with the issuance of task dossiers and final task completion certificates due to BHMAG's continued reliance on its outdated database (as IMSMA Core is not yet operational) and slow internal quality management procedures requiring multiple layers of central approval. These constraints also limit the number of survey and clearance tasks regional offices can oversee annually, especially when State operator activities occur in parallel.⁸¹ While NPA noted that task dossiers for activities within the annual operational plan are generally issued on time there are often delays in the issuance of task completion certificates stemming from administrative bottlenecks and coordination challenges between regional offices and BHMAG headquarters. NPA also reported that task dossiers often lack the detailed NTS information needed for efficient TS and clearance. As a result, operators frequently need to conduct additional survey and community liaison to supplement the dossiers and support BHMAG with updated information.⁸²

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2016, the Demining Commission adopted revised NMAS chapters on land release, NTS, and TS, developed with technical assistance from the EU, UNDP, and the GICHD.⁸³

In 2024, BHMAG conducted a comprehensive revision of the NMAS with the revised NMAS formally adopted and published by May 2024.⁸⁴ The 2024 revisions included

⁷⁵ Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table, p. 24; and Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, pp. 27 and 29; and email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAG, 8 October 2025.

⁷⁶ Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 19–22; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

⁷⁷ Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.

⁷⁸ Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, Table, p. 26.

⁷⁹ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAG, 5 June 2025.

⁸⁰ Emails from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021; Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.

⁸¹ Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

⁸² Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

⁸³ BHMAG, “Report on Mine Action in BiH for 2016”, February 2017, p. 18.

⁸⁴ Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

updated chapters on land release, NTS, TS and clearance, and quality management, aligning more closely with IMAS but also introducing additional administrative requirements for operators.⁸⁵ BHMAG also revised its SOPs for NTS and introduced new accreditation regulations for mine action organisations, including extending accreditation validity from two to three years, reducing the minimum number of deminers required from eight to six, and removing the requirement to use two clearance methods. Accredited organisations must now include community liaison personnel, either in dedicated teams or embedded in operations, with relevant accreditation. Clearance standards were also amended to require medical evacuation teams to be within five minutes of clearance sites, and BHMAG's final quality control sampling was reduced from 5% to 2%. These updated standards have been implemented since January 2025.⁸⁶

The NMAS updates were developed in consultation with clearance operators. While NPA reported that their feedback was reflected in the final standards, MAG's comments were largely not taken into account.⁸⁷

In recent years, land release projects that have included use of systematic TS and TS with targeted investigation have revealed that around 90% of mined area can be cancelled through NTS and a further 8% or 9% can be reduced through TS. This means that 2% needs to be cleared.⁸⁸ These and previous land release data indicate that actual AP mine contamination in BiH is only a small proportion of the total hazardous area on the database and therefore deployment of clearance assets is only required for relatively small areas.⁸⁹ It is thus crucial that NTS is used to identify the location of mined areas more accurately before TS and clearance are conducted. BHMAG conducts NTS and cancels some

area before an MSA is assigned to an operator although, as previously mentioned, operators often find they need to conduct additional survey and/or community liaison to supplement the information provided. In practice, most cancellation by BHMAG occurs following completion of TS and clearance of all hazardous areas within an MSA.⁹⁰

MAG and NPA both advocate for operators with adequate capacity and experience to take responsibility for cancellation through NTS but this continues to be resisted by BHMAG and would require amendments to legislation under the authority of higher levels of government and the NMAA.⁹¹ This could improve the efficiency of the land release process, by alleviating the strain on essential BHMAG resources responsible for NTS, including the preparation of land release projects. MAG believes operators should make recommendations for cancellation to BHMAG, who then formally approve and therefore take responsibility for the cancellation, as part of the overall site completion and handover process.⁹² NPA stressed the importance of BHMAG enabling operators to plan and implement land release projects effectively in line with international best practice.⁹³

MAG and NPA believe that, in general, the NMAS in BiH are suitable to enable efficient land release. However, NPA and MAG continued to notice differences in the processes and approach to land release between the BHMAG regional offices.⁹⁴ It is important, therefore, that land release workshops are organised at all levels, including BHMAG headquarters and all BHMAG regional offices, to ensure consistent application of land release methodology.⁹⁵ BHMAG has previously pledged to ensure through quality management (QM) that all organisations accredited for TS and clearance comply with the principles of land release.⁹⁶

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2024, a total of 13 organisations were deployed for survey and clearance in BiH: three government organisations (Armed Forces of BiH, the FACP, and the CPA RS); six commercial organisations, all national (Point, Detector, DCM Media, In Demining, N&N Ivša, and UEM); two national NGOs (Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC) and Stop Mines); and the two international NGOs (MAG and NPA).⁹⁷

Table 5: Operational TS and clearance capacities deployed in 2024⁹⁸

Operator	No. of teams	Total personnel	Dogs and handlers	Machines	Comments
Point	1	11	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
Detector	1	10	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
N&N Ivša	1	8	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

⁸⁷ Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

⁸⁸ 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 10; and Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

⁸⁹ BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, pp. 6 and 11; and Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.

⁹⁰ Emails from Clement Meynier, Country Director, MAG, 14 March 2022; and Charles Frisby, NPA, 11 April 2022.

⁹¹ Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June and 30 September 2025.

⁹² Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 14 March 2022.

⁹³ Email from Charles Frisby, NPA, 11 April 2022.

⁹⁴ Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 14 March 2022; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023 and 30 September 2025.

⁹⁵ Email from Charles Frisby, NPA, 11 April 2022.

⁹⁶ Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 20.

⁹⁷ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAG, 5 June 2025.

⁹⁸ Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 16 June 2025; and Čazim Mahmić, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025.

Table 5 Continued

Operator	No. of teams	Total personnel	Dogs and handlers	Machines	Comments
UEM	1	9	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
DCM Media	1	10	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
In Demining	3	21	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
MDDC	2	13	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
Stop Mines	3	19	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
NPA	8	52	6 dogs, 6 handlers	2	Clearance and TS
MAG	8	52	3 dogs, 2 handlers	0	Clearance and TS
FACP	11	64	4 dogs, 4 handlers	2	Clearance and TS
Armed Forces of BiH	34	204	12 dogs, 16 handlers	2	Clearance and TS
CPA RS	6	33	N/R	N/R	Clearance and TS
Totals	80	506	25 dogs, 28 handlers	6	

MAG does not conduct its own NTS in BiH but contributes information gathered by its community liaison teams through identification and interviews with informants during TS and clearance.⁹⁹ Similarly, NPA has a two-person NTS team that reports collated information to BHMAG to be incorporated into their NTS data.¹⁰⁰ While the Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH had six NTS teams totalling 12 personnel in 2024,¹⁰¹ BHMAG integrated drones into NTS after their successful use in the country assessment project. Drone records help identify confrontation line trenches, roads, areas in use, and other crucial elements for demining project development. Targeted investigation is used to identify hazardous areas during NTS.¹⁰²

Clearance and TS operations in BiH involve mechanical ground preparation, manual clearance, and the use of mine detection dogs (MDDs), depending on the conditions of the mined area.¹⁰³ Much of the remaining mined area is on hills or in mountains, which restricts machinery use.

BHMAG reported an overall decrease in capacity from 2023 to 2024 but expected an increase in the total number of TS and clearance personnel in 2025 thanks to two new demining projects – one under the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance “IPA III” and another for demining of the River Sava.¹⁰⁴ Under the IPA III project, €10 million of funding has been allocated over three years and will cover 42 MSAs across BiH, spanning 65.87km²: 24 in the Federation of BiH and 18 in Republika Srpska.¹⁰⁵

MAG reported that its clearance capacity remained the same in 2024 and has reduced its operational capacity in 2025 due to funding cuts.¹⁰⁶ NPA reported capacity was down in 2024 with 54 survey and clearance personnel terminated in December due to funding cuts. NPA did not expect any major changes to capacity for most of 2025 but as efforts to confirm funding beyond the end of 2025 have not been successful this suggests that NPA will have to reduce capacity further before the start of 2026.¹⁰⁷

There was no change in capacity in 2024 for the BiH Armed Forces' Demining Battalion and no change was expected in 2025.¹⁰⁸ State operators such as the BiH Armed Forces' Demining Battalion and the Civil Protection entities are thought to be good partners with effective capacities, but they have suffered from logistical challenges and equipment deficits, which can prevent them from fully functioning.¹⁰⁹

With the exception of MAG and NPA, clearance operators in BiH typically compete for international tenders in order to secure funding. A UNDP evaluation found this resulted in considerable capacity being underused and recommended alternative contracting models that would be more appropriate for land release in BiH, either by having longer term contracts or by being contracted to clear larger areas. This could be more attractive to the demining organisations in terms of security and could make better use of capacity.¹¹⁰ National demining NGOs, such as Stop Mines or Pro Vita, which are registered in a similar way to companies, have the

99 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021 and 14 March 2022.

100 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 22 April 2024.

101 Email from Čazim Mahmić, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025.

102 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAG, 15 April 2022.

103 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

104 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAG, 5 June 2025.

105 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAG, 16 September 2024.

106 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

107 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June and 30 September 2025.

108 Email from Čazim Mahmić, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025.

109 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 29; and interviews with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Haris Lokvancic, Swiss Embassy, Sarajevo, 9 May 2017; and Tarik Serak, BHMAG, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.

110 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, p. 35.

ability to quickly mobilise additional resources and upscale operations.¹¹¹ According to the CPA RS, the lack of trained deminers was becoming a problem.¹¹²

The Demining Commission is responsible for periodic re-accreditation of field operators, based on a recommendation from BHMAL. Quality control and quality assurance are both conducted by BHMAL.¹¹³

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2024 (BHMAL data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance	0.17
Technical survey	3.25
Non-technical survey	12.03
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024
AP mines destroyed	574

Mine Action Review has used the land release data reported by BHMAL but there are significant discrepancies with the data reported by operators as noted in the tables below. BHMAL reported a decrease in the amount of mined area cancelled, reduced, and cleared in 2024 compared to 2023. According to BHMAL, this corresponds to the limited number of MSAs certified as completed in 2024, with many MSAs still undergoing clearance and/or quality assurance, with the MSAs covering a total of 63.8km². Due to the extensive size of these areas, clearance often extends over several years and BHMAL only reports MSAs that were officially certified by the end of 2024.¹¹⁴

SURVEY IN 2024

In 2024, a total of 15.28km² was released through NTS and TS. BHMAL cancelled 12.03km² through NTS, of which 3.36km² was cancelled following completion of TS and clearance of assigned tasks by operators (see Table 7), and 8.67km² was cancelled through NTS before the tasks were assigned. A total of 3.25km² was reduced through TS, of which 1.84km² was within MSAs and over 1.41km² was in tasks outside MSAs (see Table 8).¹¹⁵ This is a 51% decrease from 2023 when 31.14km² was released through survey – 25.64km² cancelled through NTS and 5.5km² reduced through TS.¹¹⁶ BHMAL is directly responsible for reporting all cancellation of mined areas in BiH and does so only upon completion of whole MSAs. There were substantial discrepancies between the TS data reported by BHMAL and the data reported by operators.

Table 7: Release of mined area in MSAs through NTS in 2024 (BHMAL data)¹¹⁷

Canton	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Tuzlanski	MAG	1,003,942
Tuzlanski	Armed Forces of BiH	536,750
Unsko Sanski	MDDC	365,820
Srednje Bosanski	MDDC	271,341
Totals BiH Federation		2,177,853
Republika Srpska	Armed Forces of BiH	1,057,250
Republika Srpska	MAG	120,167
Totals Republika Srpska		1,177,417
Grand Total		3,355,270

¹¹¹ Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.

¹¹² Email from Milisav Pantic, CPA RS, 23 September 2022.

¹¹³ Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

¹¹⁴ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

¹¹⁵ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

¹¹⁶ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

¹¹⁷ Email Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025. Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH reported cancelling 14.73km² through NTS in 2024.

Table 8: Release of mined area outside MSAs through TS in 2024 (BHMAL data)¹¹⁸

Canton	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	CPA RS	58,731
Canton 10	Armed Forces of BiH	46,713
Posavski	FACP	69,020
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	Armed Forces of BiH	338,766
Zenicko Dobojski	FACP	35,935
Posavski	POINT	10,030
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	UEM	88,088
Srednje Bosanski	N&N IVSA	53,829
Srednje Bosanski	Armed Forces of BiH	45,170
Unsko Sanski	UEM	60,737
Srednje Bosanski	DETEKTOR	30,410
Zenicko Dobojski	IN DEMINING	43,760
Srednje Bosanski	POINT	17,915
Totals BiH Federation		899,104
Republika Srpska	Armed Forces of BiH	104,416
Republika Srpska	CPA RS	107,627
Republika Srpska	UEM	31,299
Republika Srpska	DCM MEDIA	92,693
Republika Srpska	POINT	100,300
Republika Srpska	STOP MINES	76,968
Totals Republika Srpska		513,303
Grand Total		1,412,407

Table 9: Release of mined area through TS in 2024 (data from MAG, Armed Forces of BiH, FACP, and NPA)¹¹⁹

Canton	Operator	Areas reduced	Area reduced (m ²)
Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde	FACP	1	4,320
Brcko District	MAG	1	445,679
Brcko District	NPA	13	372,097
Canton 10	FACP	1	12,300
Central Bosnia	FACP	2	61,845
Herzegovina-Neretva	MAG	1	448,780
Herzegovina-Neretva	FACP	4	100,858
Posavina	FACP	2	92,207
Sarajevo	FACP	2	46,561
Tuzla	MAG	3	866,686
Tuzla	NPA	4	397,894
Una-Sana	FACP	4	67,723
Zenica-Doboj	FACP	2	188,516

¹¹⁸ Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 5 June 2025.

¹¹⁹ Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; Ćazim Mahmić, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 16 June 2025; and Valerie Warrington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

Table 9 Continued

Canton	Operator	Areas reduced	Area reduced (m ²)
N/R	Armed Forces of BiH	N/R	903,326
Totals BiH Federation		40	4,008,792
Republika Srpska	MAG	1	128,544
Republika Srpska	NPA	6	204,224
Totals Republika Srpska		7	332,768
Grand Totals		47	4,341,560

CLEARANCE IN 2024

In 2024, BHMIC reported clearance of 0.17km², of which 0.079km² was within MSAs (no breakdown provided) and 0.092km² was outside (see Table 10). A total of 574 AP mines were found and destroyed during clearance and TS.¹²⁰ This is a significant decrease from the 0.36km² of mined area cleared in 2023, of which 0.18km² was within MSA and 0.18km² was outside MSA, with 786 AP mines destroyed.¹²¹ There were substantial differences between the clearance data reported by BHMIC and the data reported by operators. However, Mine Action Review has not been able to verify the difference as no breakdown of clearance within MSAs was provided by BHMIC.

Table 10: Clearance outside MSAs in 2024 by canton (BHMIC data)¹²²

Canton	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)
Posavski	FACP	6,288
Tuzla	FACP	2,220
Zenica-Doboj	FACP	4,701
Herzegovina-Neretva	In Demining	9,261
Central Bosnia	Detektor	14,333
Zenica-Doboj	In Demining	6,984
Unsko Sanski	Detektor	17,223
Sarajevo	UEM	2,158
Totals BiH Federation		63,168
Republika Srpska	Armed Forces of BiH	253
Republika Srpska	N&N IVSA	6,723
Republika Srpska	IN DEMINING	4,543
Republika Srpska	N&N IVSA	16,606
Republika Srpska	DCM MEDIA	1,286
Totals Republika Srpska		29,411
Grand Total		92,579

Table 11: Clearance in 2024 by canton (data from MAG, Armed Forces of BiH, FACP, and NPA)¹²³

Canton	Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde	FACP	1	14,980	47	0	10
Brcko District	NPA	6	4,709	20	1	37
Brcko District	MAG	1	136,233	64	0	8
Central Bosnia	FACP	3	1,160	8	0	16

120 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMIC, 5 June 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

121 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMIC, 29 April 2024.

122 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMIC, 5 June 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

123 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June and 5 October 2025; Čazim Mahmić, Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 16 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

Table 11 Continued

Canton	Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Herzegovina Neretva	MAG	2	160,193	110	0	10
Herzegovina Neretva	FACP	4	43,466	83	0	8
Posavina	FACP	1	38,751	5	0	1
Sarajevo	FACP	2	7,803	55	6	17
Tuzla	MAG	3	349,660	329	11	89
Tuzla	NPA	3	14,770	57	0	21
Una-Sana	FACP	1	450	5	0	10
Zenica-Doboj	FACP	2	20,258	33	6	37
N/R	Armed Forces BiH	N/R	33,196	205	10	239
Totals BiH Federation		29	825,629	1,021	34	503
Republika Srpska	MAG	1	2,255	0	0	0
Republika Srpska	NPA	5	9,261	137	1	28
Totals Republika Srpska		6	11,516	137	1	28
Grand Totals		35	837,145	1,158	35	531

In addition, the FACP also reported destroying 1,212 AP mines and 46 AV mines during EOD spot tasks in 2024.¹²⁴

In 2024, BHMACH reported that 22 AP mined area tasks, totalling 702,229m², were cleared with no mines found, a substantial increase on the 19 tasks totalling 28,730m² cleared in 2023 with no AP mines found.¹²⁵ Both MAG and NPA stated that mines were found on all their clearance tasks in 2024.¹²⁶ However, NPA noted that almost all of its tasks are for TS rather than clearance, and on many of these tasks no mines or other ERW are found. Of the 23 TS tasks assigned to NPA in 2024, nine contained no mines. Analysis shows that when mechanical ground preparation is included in its calculations, NPA processed an average of 48% of the

total area reduced through its technical survey work. As high as 27% of the reduced area was processed when only manual and MDD assets were included in the calculation. This is a higher proportion than in other countries where NPA operates which is believed to reflect a growing inability to direct operations in line with evidence on the ground. In particular, NPA believes that land release productivity could be improved through improved analysis and operational planning based on NTS results and greater use of targeted rather than systematic technical survey. Additional reductions in the percentage of reduced area requiring technical interventions could be achieved by reducing requirements from two MDD searches to a single MDD search on mechanically prepared land.¹²⁷

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



124 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 16 June 2025.

125 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMACH, 29 April 2024 and 5 June 2025.

126 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

127 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June, 30 September and 8 October 2025.

Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in line with the third extension of its deadline, BiH is required to destroy all AP mines under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2027. BiH will not meet this deadline and is planning to submit a fourth Article 5 deadline extension request in 2026.

The 2020 extension request, granted by the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, was for the purpose of conducting NTS and TS “to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.¹²⁸ It is, however, assumed that there was an accidental omission of land release through clearance, and that BiH intended to complete clearance of remaining mined areas by the requested deadline. Prior to this, BiH had been granted a second extension request in 2018, for an interim two-year extension to 1 March 2021, during which it conducted a “country assessment”, to better understand the extent of AP mined area remaining and plan more effectively for its release.¹²⁹

Over the last five years, BiH has released 2.67km² thorough clearance (see Table 12). The painfully slow pace of survey and clearance has resulted in lack of confidence in the national mine action programme from donors but also from people living in mine-affected communities, who feel disillusioned that the mines have not been cleared.¹³⁰ Land release output decreased by 51% between 2023 and 2024 and BiH fell considerably short of its land release target of 145km² for the year. BiH has been consistently lagging behind the land release targets set out in its 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request and has released updated targets for 2025 and 2026 as part of the review of its national strategy. The new targets of 75km² per year are also very ambitious based on BiH land release outputs in recent years. There is also 63.8km² of contaminated area that is still in progress, where clearance and/or quality assurance are ongoing and no area has yet been officially certified. At the current, negligible rate of land release output, it will take BiH two decades to complete clearance.

Table 12: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	0.17
2023	0.36
2022	0.92
2021	*0.69
2020	*0.53
Total	2.67

*Combined TS and clearance output for MSAs.

Systematic survey conducted in BiH over recent years has determined that 90% of mined area can be cancelled through NTS. To address this challenge, BHMAL should focus on enhancing NTS resources and capacity. The current approach seems inefficient and lacks transparency with operators. For instance, as NPA neared completion of the “Mine-Free Majevisa” project, the BHMAL Regional Office in Tuzla added 4km² to NPA’s tasks, with another new task expected in Lopare, yet NPA has not been able to access the NTS information behind these decisions.¹³¹ A more effective strategy would be to empower operators to conduct NTS, with BHMAL focusing on oversight and approval. This change would unlock more potential resources and capacity and could lead to substantial increases in NTS output. If BHMAL also ensures a consistent and efficient approach to land release operations across all stakeholders, it could result in significant improvements in overall land release practices, helping BiH make meaningful progress towards its clearance goals.

In addition, BHMAL (both headquarters and its regional offices) must ensure stronger coordination and an enabling operating environment, with a more sustained and efficient mobilisation of strategic national demining resources such as the Demining Battalion and Civil Protection entities. This does, however, require political will and strong oversight and commitment from BHMAL, the Demining Commission, and their superiors in the government, which is lacking at present.

It is disappointing that no Country Coalition meetings have taken place since the first one in 2020 nor have the TWGs been reformed. BiH should fully embrace and use the Country Coalition formed with Germany, as a useful platform to help strengthen coordination and actively address and overcome the ongoing challenges in Article 5 implementation. In order to achieve completion, BiH must sustain national and international funding to its Mine Action Programme, and mechanisms such as the Country Coalition and Board of Donor meetings are an essential element in achieving this.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 required the development of a residual contamination management strategy by 2022, but as at August 2025 this had yet to be elaborated.¹³² It is unclear whether an NMAS on residual contamination has been incorporated into the updated standards. While the revised mine action strategy includes residual contamination management and suggests BiH could enter a residual management phase in 2027, this is not feasible given that completion of clearance remains many years away.¹³³ In its latest Article 7 report, BiH notes it still lacks a legal framework for a sustainable national capacity to address residual contamination. Nonetheless, BiH recognises that it has national capacity in place that could assume this role, and that planning for sustainable capacity will begin once clearance is completed.¹³⁴

¹²⁸ Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.

¹²⁹ 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19; and “BiH Statement on Interim Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5”, Geneva, 7 June 2018.

¹³⁰ UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 14.

¹³¹ Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 22 April 2024.

¹³² Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 23 March and 31 August 2023; and Mirjana Marić, BHMAL, 29 April 2024.

¹³³ Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p. 37.

¹³⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.